

A
L E T T E R
TO THE

Secret Committee.

*Great Britain
Commons, H.C.
App.*

CONTAINING,

Certain Extraordinary PRACTICES of
the late M——r, intended to have
been laid before them in a private
Manner, and now submitted to their
Publick Consideration.

B. Walpole

*I hope the Parliament of Great Britain will al-
ways be able to pull any Minister from behind
the Throne; for if it should not, That very
Inability would be a Dissolution of our Con-
stitution.*

Speech of Q. FABIVS MAXIMVS.

L O N D O N:

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M DCC XLII.

L. A. T. E. R

TO THE

Secret Committee.

CONTAINING

Certain Information Practiced of
the late M. ———, intended to have
been put before them in a private
Manner, and not admitted to the



Public Confession



A
L E T T E R
T O T H E
SECRET COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,



O Man without being the most
harden'd Profligate that ever
enter'd the Walls of *Newgate*,
can stoop to be the dirty A-
gent of another, without sometimes feel-
ing a Repugnance, in spite of all the many
Arguments he will bring in favour of his
Conduct. His Honesty will often detest
what his Interest makes it necessary to
comply with : His Reason and Pride may

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some-

sometimes tempt him to renounce the mean Agency he is engaged in : But then again the many illustrious Examples of Subserviency he may continually have before his Eyes, will be apt to stifle the Voice of Reason, and leave his Pride under as mortifying a State as ever. If a Person is capable of reflecting thus in secret Dependency, by how much more pungent must it be to him to proclaim to the whole World the infamous Part he has been made to act ! How disagreeable soever this Task must naturally be, I have imposed it upon myself ; and give me Leave to inform you, Gentlemen, that as the only Attonement in my Power for having been guilty of a very criminal Prostitution, I had determin'd with myself to lay the following Facts before you in Person, as soon as such Application cou'd be made with Safety ; but as the untoward Fate of the Bill for indemnifying Those who might be as desirous as myself of affording Lights into your Enquiry, has frustrated my honest Intentions in that Particular, as well as deny'd you the only Means I apprehend that could render your Endeavours successful, I am obliged to submit them to your Public Consideration.

It

It has always been held dangerous to accuse a favourite Minister while he is at the Zenith of his Power and Interest at Court; and though the Publick has been gratified with the Removal of one, it is manifest by all Circumstances since, that he has not lost his Power and Influence, but that they are essentially the same.

As therefore, Gentlemen, I have to do with a Person still mighty in Friends and Power, fruitful in Evasions, and who, by the very Nature of the Facts I must accuse him of, has it greatly in his Power to turn the Tables upon me, either by an absolute Denial of any such Transactions as are here represented, or by charging me as the sole Author of them, the Conversations I had with him concerning them being always very private, in his own Closet, and without Witnesses: As moreover he may even produce Letters from me under my own Hand, which he caused me to write to him for the carrying on his Designs; and as he consequently may make those very Letters so many specious Evidences against me, it surely behoves me to be extremely cautious, and I hope it will not be thought unreasonable if I conceal my Name, while I untie my Tongue;

at the same time I declare myself ready to appear before you, and attest every thing contain'd in the subsequent Pages in the solemnest Manner, if call'd upon, and there be yet a Possibility of my doing it with Safety; for otherwise, as I said before, to use the Words of a noble Lord, His Power would infallibly be employed in blasting the Credit, or preventing the Effect of my Evidence, and probably in making the Punishment fall, not upon the guilty Minister, but upon the brave and honest Accuser; as in the Case of the Earl of *Bristol* in King *Charles* the First's Time, who brought an Accusation against the Duke of *Buckingham*, which produced another of High Treason against himself.

I am very sensible however, Gentlemen, that the exhibiting such extraordinary Particulars in this anonymous Manner will take greatly from their Weight: I can easily foresee the Exceptions they will be exposed to: Prejudice will operate as usual; nor will Malice be idle. Those who may happen to think them of sufficient Moment to deserve Attention, and who are candid enough to assign the true Reason for such a Concealment, will, or I mistake, lament the Necessity of it, and
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be apt to think it serves at least to shew, in some measure, the Expediency of such a Bill as has had the Misfortune to miscarry with the Lords, and thereby given a fresh Disappointment to the Expectations of the Public; but those whose Interest it is to blacken the Attempt will not be wanting to throw on it all the odious Colours their Wit or their Malice can suggest. Methinks I hear them cry, Who is this Accuser in the Dark? Where is his Proof? Why does not he appear? I shall admire the Sagacity of these Querists just as much as I would the Courage of him who first robs a Man of his Arms and then puts him to Defiance. And I hereby give them this publick Notice, that as often as they shall urge the above Interrogatories, in Imitation of *Shakespeare*, I have taught a Starling to answer in their Ears — *The Indemnifying Bill.* —

There are some well-meaning People, again, who may think it highly improbable, that the Person levelled at should be capable of descending to such little Arts as they will find him stand charged with; but I must entreat all such political Scepticks to recollect what shallow Plots and mean Artifices of Ministers abound in the
Histories

Histories of all Nations : I must entreat them to consider the Character of the Person in Question when he has any favourite Point to gain : I must beg to remind them of his notable *Penny Post Plot* some Years ago : I must likewise desire them to weigh all Circumstances with the Views the Author proposed to himself in these crafty Devices ; and then I am persuaded they will entertain a more favourable Opinion, and be inclin'd to think them, as I know them to be, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth.

But not to take up any more of your Time, Gentlemen, with Matter of Introduction, I do hereby accuse the late M——r of being the Contriver, first Mover, Abetter, and Cherisher of the following Intrigues, which may not improperly be ranged under these Titles :

(Viz.)

The last Will and Testament Plot,

The Gin Plot,

And

The Patriot's Plot.

Whereby

Whereby he imposed in the grossest and most audacious Manner on his sacred M——y, and the Nation in general, and on a foreign Lady of Distinction in particular. And in as much as I acknowledge myself to have been accessory thereto; I do most humbly ask their Pardons respectively for the Share I had in carrying on such detestable Practices.

An Acquaintance of some Years with the late M——r, and the advantageous Opinion he has frequently been pleased to express of my Understanding, having wrought me by degrees into considerable Credit with him, he call'd me one Day into his Closet, saying, he had had a Desire for a good while of engaging me in his Service, and was now very glad of having an Opportunity of shewing the Consideration he had for me. He then open'd himself with a Freedom and Confidence that both flatter'd and surpriz'd me: Complain'd of the Virulence of his Enemies; set forth their various Attempts to ruin him with the K——; said, that tho' he was a good and gracious, and as steady a Prince as ever sat on the Throne, yet that their wicked Arts might one Day make dangerous Impressions on him, and therefore in Policy

it

it behov'd him to countermine them in all he cou'd. He then proceeded to tell me he had singled me out as a proper Person on many accounts for the carrying on a Business he wanted to have transacted, and added, that I should find my Account in it, if I behaved myself to his Satisfaction, and agreeable to the Idea he had form'd of my Attachment, Integrity and Discretion. I immediately assured him with a visible Transport, that I should think myself highly honour'd with any Commands he should think fit to lay upon me, and would do my best to merit his Approbation. On this, having made me draw my Chair near him, he gave me the following Informations previous to what I call

The last Will and Testament Plot.

He told me a Packet would be left for me the next Day at the House of a Person he nam'd, with whom it was known I had Business, and where Messages and Letters were frequently left for me. In this Packet, said he, you will find a Manuscript, and an Anonymous Letter for yourself, both which I wou'd have you immediately on the Reception bring me to *Hampton Court*, enclosed with a Letter from

from yourself to me, declaring by what means you came to be in Possession of those Papers, and that you thought it your Duty to lay them before me, accompany'd with what other Expressions you judge proper.

I presently found I was to pay a blind Obedience to his Commands, without being let into the Views he had in them; having therefore my necessary Instructions, I took my leave; and as I was doing so, he laid his Hand on mine with the greatest Familiarity, and calling me by my Name, You see, said he, I am going to make Tryal of your Fidelity, be true to me, and you shall always find me a Friend. I was going to repeat my Asseverations, but he had rung his Bell, and a Servant came in to let him know some other Person he expected waited to speak with him, so I retir'd immediately.

This Interval was fill'd up with all those little Transports, which naturally arise from the Thoughts of being distinguish'd by a great Man. I confess my Vanity got the better of me on this Occasion, and I indulg'd myself into a kind of Rapture at the pleasing Prospect that offer'd

of making my Fortune. I was resolv'd to improve this lucky Opportunity at all Events, and complimented myself with being the happiest Mortal breathing.

In such kind of Dispositions I was when I receiv'd the Papers in Question, which were conveyed to me from the place mention'd by the M——r. I was infinitely surpris'd when I came to look over the Manuscript, which took up two Sheets of Paper, wrote very close, and was entitled,
The last Will and Testament of a deceased Sultan.

As I did not imagine, at that time, I shou'd ever have Occasion to make any publick mention of this Transaction, I will not pretend to say it is in my Power to give the very Words of the Will, neither can it be expected from me as I did not take a Copy; but to the best of my Memory it consisted of several Items, importing, as I think, that the sublime *Mussulman*, Testator, disinherited his only Son, and bequeath'd all his hereditary Dominions to a Neighbouring Prince, who had married his Daughter; and justified this seemingly cruel and unnatural Proceeding
 by

by Reasons too intricate for my Comprehension, as well as too copious for my Memory to recapitulate.—Several Legacies were bequeath'd, the most considerable of which was to a favourite Woman of the *Seraglio* and her Daughter, with other large Sums for Public Uses.

This was the Substance of the whole, which was witness'd by the *Mufti*, and the *Vifier*, and was wrote with an affected Air of Myfteriousness, yet, as if contrary to the Author's Intention, so as to give room for an Explanation.

Here my Surprise return'd with double Force: I knew not well what to think:—It was natural for me to enquire what cou'd be the Policy had induc'd the M——r to this——It must be for some important End, I was certain.—As I found I was not wholly trusted, I recollected what he had said concerning the Attempts of his Enemies to ruin him with the K——, his Apprehensions on the Impressions they might make, and his resolving to countermine them:—From all which, as yet I cou'd gather little, only as it had been rumour'd about this time that the K—— had been of late less satisfied

with him than he had been, and that it was as much as all the Policy and Influence of her M—— could do to hinder the Dislike he had to him from breaking out, it came into my Mind that this might probably be intended as a means to revenge himself upon his Enemies by fathering it upon them; and at the same time re-ingratiating himself with the K——, by giving a Proof of his Sagacity and Diligence in discovering and suppressing such audacious Insinuations.

Full of these Reflections, inherent to the inquisitive Nature of the Soul, I went to *Hampton Court*, and having wrote a Letter to the M——r such as he had desired I shou'd, I made it up in one Packet with the Papers, and sent it from the *Toy* by a Waiter. I had not been there above half an Hour before one of his Footmen came to me and said, his Master was just gone to the K——, but he would not have me go, for he shou'd send for me as soon as he came back.

During my Stay here I was full of Thought:——To be told the M——r was gone to the K—— just on the arrival of my Packet was a Circumstance that renewed

renewed my Enquiry, and gave me, as I imagin'd, some Light into his Design, and I could not help concluding that the Papers were intended to be shewn.

I waited 'as near as I can guess about two Hours before the same Man return'd, and said his Master was now at leisure and wou'd see me. I then follow'd him to the P——ce, and was carried into an Apartment belonging to the M——r. He received me with a distance vastly different from that Freedom which I expected; ask'd me Questions which very much astonish'd me; and as he had given me no previous warning of them, convinc'd me, when I afterwards reflected on them, that he had a great Idea of my Presence of Mind at least. Whether there was any Person in hearing, or whether this strange Behaviour was only to make Trial of my Capacity, I know not; but he ask'd me in a pretty stern, and louder Voice than usual, if I could not guess who was the Author of that infamous Manuscript I had just sent him? What time I receiv'd it? Whether I had imparted the Contents to any one besides himself? and if I wou'd make Oath it came into my Hands in the manner I pretended? All
which

which several Interrogatories, odd as they appeared to me, I answer'd in a proper manner; and he then order'd me to attend him at his House in *A——n Street* the *Thursday* following, where he said he would talk further to me.

I returned home full of Anxieties and Fears at this unexpected Treatment; for I perceiv'd now to what Dangers I had expos'd myself in thus taking upon me the whole of an Affair which it so much behov'd the M——r not to be suspected of having any share in, and which he took so much Precaution to seem totally ignorant of. A great Damp was now put upon my late Transports, and I almost began to repent M——l Favour: To such Alternatives are Mankind subject.

I waited on him, however, according to his Commands on *Thursday*, and was conducted into his back Parlour, where I found him perfectly free and good-humour'd, and I had a long Conference with him, though several Persons of Distinction were all the Time expecting to speak with him in the next Room. On my expressing some Amazement at the Questions he had put to me at *Hampton Court*, he fell

fell a laughing, and only answer'd, without assigning any Reason for having done so, that he imagin'd it would have that Effect upon me; but that I had behaved extremely right. At the same time he made me a Present of a Bank-Bill of considerable Value, telling me, when he put it into my Hand, that it was not his Nature to be ungrateful for any Services done him; and added, he would not have me alarm'd if I should happen to be taken up, for I might depend on his Protection; but that he wou'd, however, endeavour to prevent it.

With this I took my Leave, under fresh Alarms, which it was neither in the Power of his Promise, nor the Bill he had given me to remove. I was now convinced, that the Packet had been shewn; that our Conversation had been overheard, and that some considerable Person, in the Hastiness of his Nature, might have insisted on my being taken up, and which the M——r was obliged seemingly to give into.

Some Days after, I observ'd in the public Prints, that a certain Right Honourable Gentleman, an eminent Patriot, was struck
out

out of his M——y's Privy C——l, in a pretty contemptuous Manner. This Incident confirm'd me a good deal in my former Conjectures as to the M——r's Views, and as I imagin'd they had been successful, it contributed not a little to ease me of my Fears. I was sent for the same Day to the M——r, who told me he wanted to see me only to make me easy; for that I had nothing to apprehend on the Score of being taken up, it being now resolv'd otherwise.

Thus ends the whole of this secret Transaction, which I shall leave to others to comment more largely upon, and proceed to a fresh ministerial Device, the Meaning of which is less *abstruse*, as the Effects have been more *notorious*, and to which I give the Name of

The Gin Plot.

In the Beginning of September, 1736, the late M——r sent for me to *Chelsea*, and, after some previous Discourse, said, he had Occasion for my Pen once more. I answer'd, that not only my Pen, but my Head and Heart were at his Service, with other Compliments of the like Nature;

Nature; on which he told me, he would have me write a certain Number of Circular Letters to some of the most eminent Distillers; in which it would be proper I should aggravate as much as possible the Hardships the Act commencing at *Michaelmas* would lay them under; and then desire each respectively to repair on the Evening of the 28th Instant to one or other of several noted Houses in what Parts of the Town I thought most proper, where I was to say they would be met by a great many of their Brethren, and others, to consult how to redress their common Grievance. None of these Letters were to have any Name subscribed, but to be wrote with the Spirit and Manner of a Person of Consequence, and to be sent by the Penny-post.

This Commission I took upon me to execute, and having informed myself of the Names and Places of Abode of all those who were look'd upon as the most considerable in the Trade, I think, I wrote to sixty four or sixty five in Number. The Letters were all of the same Date, contain'd much the same Expressions,

fions, and were dispatch'd on the same Day.

After this was over, the M——r desired I would send to those Houses I had mentioned in the Letters, and order that the largest Rooms should be kept for particular Companies, which they were to be told would meet on *Michaelmas-Eve*.

This Injunction I also comply'd with, and as I apprehended no Danger in what I was about, I perform'd it with the more Alacrity. When I had done all, as I thought, that was intended to be requir'd of me, I waited on him to acquaint him his Commands were obey'd: He receiv'd me with a smiling Countenance, thank'd me for having been so punctual and expeditious; but said, there was yet one Thing more remaining to be done. Do you think, said he, that any of the People, thus wrote to, are well enough affected to the Government to make an Information of what they have received? I was a little surprized at this Question, but answer'd, as it was natural for me to do, that it was impossible for me to form any Conjecture on that Score, as I was wholly unacquainted with any of the Persons; but among such

a Number it was possible there might be some that would not make a Secret of it. That we can have no Assurance of, you know,—— said he again. Here I paus'd, and, beginning to see more clearly into his Drift, told him I knew a Person who I imagined might be able to bring about what I perceived his Honour aim'd at, and if he pleas'd, I would bring him : But he shook his Head at my mentioning it, and told me that would be improper. He must not know, said he, that I have any Hand in the Business ; but I would have you talk to him, and if you find him fit to be trusted, you may communicate it to him as an Invention of your own to get Money from the Government. After which I came away, and went directly to the House of the Person we had been talking of.

This was one, who, by being concerned in Mortgages, and other Ways of Money-lending, I knew had a very large Acquaintance : That he was likewise Master of a great deal of Cunning without seeming to have any, and by what I had observed of him, would be ready enough to come into any thing that had the Prospect of Advantage : All which Qualifi-

cations made me think him a proper Person for the Affair in hand.

I found him at home, and having founded him with some Artifice, and perceived by the Answers he gave me, that I had not been deceived in my Opinion of him, I related to him all I had done, and all that remain'd to do, for the compleating a Project, which, I had told him, was merely the Child of my own Brain; and added, that if we could order it so, as to make the *sham Plot* appear a *real* one, I knew the M——r would give a large Reward for the Discovery.

He swallow'd the Bait, and believing what I had said was practicable, found a thousand Arguments to justify the Imposition he was going to engage in. He maintain'd that every thing that was attended with Profit, provided it came within the Letter of the Law, was both honest and wise; and that no body wanted Money but those who had neither Courage nor Invention. The great Folks know this well enough, said he, and what they call refin'd Policy is nothing more than a Variety of Shifts and Tricks to get their Ends. Don't all the K——s in the
World

World contrive how to cheat one another of their Dominions? What are all their Conquests but so many Robberies? What are their Treaties but Artifices to deceive and circumvent? In what, pray, consists the Wisdom of a M——r of State, but in Plots to drain the People of their Money, elude their just Complaints, preserve the Favour of his Prince, and at last go off with Impunity? What are the temporizings of the C——y but Rounds in the Ladder of Perferment? What are all the Wranglings of the L——rs but a meer Sham and Contrivance to raise themselves Fortunes out of Fools Estate? What is *Physic* but a Combination between D——r and A——y to cheat the Patient out of his Substance, and, it may be, his Life?—In every Rank, in every Profession, Stratagems are necessary, and those who don't know how to make use of them are no better than the Slaves of those that do, and must expect to be miserable and despis'd.

This Sermon on the Laudableness of Fraud made me laugh very heartily, and the Warmth with which it was deliver'd, convinc'd me that it proceeded more from the Soul than some others I had heard

on

on Tenets vastly different. As he was a Man who naturally loved talking, and was on a Theme he was now more than ordinary full of, he expatiated very largely on it, and repeated many things twenty times over, which was one Reason that I so well remember this Conversation. He run on so long that, I was obliged to interrupt him by reminding him that Expedition was now as necessary as Invention, and if he cou'd find a proper Person to be our Instrument, there was no time to be lost, because the Information of the pretended Plot ought to be made before the Commencement of the Act, which wanted now no more than four Days.

On this he told me he was acquainted with several Distillers, and also with one *A——r*, a Man that kept a Shop near St. James's, and sold spirituous Liquors by Retail; which latter, he said, he took to be the most likely of any for our Purpose, because he had a great Influence over him. He added also, that he was a plain, robust Fellow, of no Understanding, and might easily be brought to believe any thing. I join'd in his Opinion, that a fitter Person could not be found, and we had no occasion to seek farther. I then said that I
would

would consider of a Letter, and desired he would dine with me the next Day, and settle every thing.

Early in the Morning I went to the M——r, and acquainted him how far I had proceeded. He was very well pleased to find the Person I had mention'd to him came so readily into the Project, and said, the Character of the other gave a very good Handle for writing to him, so bid me prepare a Letter immediately, importing in Substance that a Design was carrying on to set aside the Act, and to invite him, this A——r, to come and bring what Friends he could, about eleven at Night on *Michaelmas Eve*, to *Solomon's Porch*, a Place so call'd near the West Gate of *Westminster Abbey*, where he would be join'd by others that would surprise him. I was left at my Liberty to give what Reasons I thought proper for writing to him in such a manner, as well as to enhance the Grievances occasion'd by the Act, and with these Instructions I came home.

I had but just finish'd the Letter when my Friend arrived: He had conceiv'd such high Expectations of the Success of
my

my Plot, that he came somewhat before the Hour I had appointed, and was overjoy'd to find I continued in the same Mind.

We then began to consider how to proceed: The Certainty that this Letter was deliver'd into A——r's own Hand, and that he shou'd receive it while my Agent was with him, were the two main Points on which all the rest depended; I therefore resolv'd to make sure of the one by trusting to no Body and delivering it myself; and as to the other, we agreed to go together to some House in A——r's Neighbourhood, where I should be left till he went to see if the Man was at home, of which I might be certain if he stay'd, otherwise he was to return immediately.

This was the best Method we could think on; so it was accordingly put in Execution: That same Afternoon I muffled myself up in my Cloak, and after waiting some time, finding he did not come back, went to A——r's Shop. They were drinking together in a back Room, but on my desiring to speak with A——r he was call'd out to me, and the other follow'd

followed him, as undesignedly and saw me give him the Letter, and heard me say as I was doing so, this comes from some very good Friends of yours ;—you are desired to consider it very attentively ; I said no more, nor waited for his Answer,——the Man look'd amaz'd, and I was glad to be gone for fear of Accidents.

The solemn manner in which I spoke, together with the Contents, of the Letter, quite confounded *A*——*r* ; he scratch'd his Head, bent his Brows, stood with his Mouth half open, but had not the Power to speak.

The Alteration that appeared in his Countenance was a good Opportunity for my Agent to ask if that Letter had brought him any ill News? He hesitated a little before he answered, but at last gave him the Letter to read, saying he did not know what to make of it : Make of it ! cry'd the other, as soon as he had look'd it over, why this is downright Treason ; ——here's a Plot against the State carrying on, and they want you to have a Hand in it ; ——if this Letter should be found about you, you are undone, I wou'd

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not

not be in your Condition for more than I'll speak of;—'tis not safe to keep it a Moment. Then I'll burn it this Minute, said *A——r*, and was going to do so, but my Friend, beginning to think he had over-acted his Part, held his Hand, and told him that would be dangerous too; how do you know, said he, but the very Person who delivered it to you, may give an Information of your receiving it, and then your saying you had burn'd it wou'd not be sufficient to clear you? No, no, you must go and shew it to——naming the *M——r*, and then you have nothing to fear. Poor *A——r*, as the other told me, was so terribly frightened, that he was glad to do any thing to shew his Innocence; but said, he did not know how to go about such a Business, nor which way to get to the Speech of the *M——r*. My Agent having now brought him to this Point thought he might make a double Advantage if he went first alone to the *M——r*, so took the other at his word, and said, it was a very difficult thing, indeed, to get Admittance; but he would go himself and discover the Plot; for he had been accusom'd to speak to great People, and knew how to behave to them, and then he might go afterward and
produce

produce the Letter. A———r approv'd very well of his going, but wou'd by no means be prevail'd upon to keep the Letter: My Friend told me he cou'd not forbear laughing at the Terror his first Words had thrown him into, and we were both very merry together at the Recital he made me, and the Description of his Eagerness to thrust the Letter into his Hand, saying he shou'd not sleep a wink all Night if it were in the House.

Late as it was when we separated, I did not go to Bed till I had wrote the M——r an Account of what had happened, and that the Person I had employ'd would attend him the next Morning with the Discovery.

Orders therefore were given that such a Person as I had described to him shou'd be admitted, tho' with some seeming Difficulty, to take away all Suspicion of his being appriz'd of his coming; he was shew'd at last into a Parlor, where, having been made to wait a considerable time, the M———r came to him. My Friend accosted him with a very formal Speech, which he had studied for that Purpose: He told him that it being his good For-

tune to be present where a very treasonable Letter had been deliver'd, he had, as he thought it his Duty, prevail'd on the Person who receiv'd it to give him leave to lay it before his Honour, that the eminent Danger which threatned the Peace of the Kingdom might by his Widdom be averted,——and a great deal more such Stuff, at which the M——r, as he told me afterward, cou'd scarce forbear laughing. He receiv'd it, however, very gravely, and having read it said, he found indeed there was a most execrable Plot carrying on,——that the Man who receiv'd this Letter had done well not to conceal it; but he must come and give what other Information he was able; my Agent reply'd, that it was in order to bring him, that he had taken the liberty of waiting on his Honour: That indeed it was highly necessary the Man should be examin'd; and his Honour shewed his great Zeal and Care for the public Tranquility to dive as much as possible into the bottom of this treasonable Conspiracy; but that there wou'd be no occasion to send any Warrant, for he know the Person wou'd come: To this the M——r gave a Nod of Assent, and he went directly to Mr. A——r, who was not quite satisfied with the Honour
of

of waiting on this Statesman, but as it must be so, he accompanied him.

The M———r began to Question him with a stern and magisterial Air, and it was well for A———r that he was perfectly innocent, for had the least Guilt been even in his Thoughts his Fears had certainly betray'd it. He protested he cou'd not imagine why such a Letter shou'd be sent to him, for he never troubled himself with State Affairs in his Life. But you have been one of those, I suppose, said the M———r, that have murmur'd against the Act, and talk'd among your Companions of the Grievances that would attend it? Not I, as I hope to be sav'd, Sir, cry'd he, I never spoke of it in my Life; and when I heard 'em railing and talking, as you know People will, I always told 'em they wou'd only make bad worse, as the saying is. 'Tis strange then, said the M———r, that they shou'd seem to depend so much upon you:—Come, come, you must have complain'd to some Body—let me know to whom, and by that means we may be able to guess at the Letter-writer,—On this he made a thousand Assertions of his Innocence in Thought, Word and Deed; but the M———r

M——r would not for a great while seem to believe that he could be ignorant of every thing, and asked him what sort of Person brought the Letter, and if he thought he could know him again. He answered that he did not believe he should, and was sure he had never seen him before.

But I will not enter into a Detail of any further Particulars of this mock Examination, which to have the greater Appearance of being a real one the M——r prolong'd a great while. At last he dismiss'd them, after they had set down their Names and Places of Abode, that they might be sent to in case there should be any Occasion for their Oaths.

A——r, to his great Joy, heard no more of this Business, but he that was under me, the Conductor of it, was sent to in three or four Days; on which he went, not a little elated at finding himself a Man of so much Consequence; a Place at Court, or Pension for Life, and the perpetual Confidence of the M——r, were the least Gratuities he expected for the Service he had done the State.

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The M——r asked him some farther Questions, bid him be ready, and take Care that A——r should be so too, if an Order should be sent for them to appear before the C——l, and with this gave him a Bank Bill as a Recompence for his Loyalty, telling him that if it hereafter fell in his Way to hear of any Practices against the G——t he would not be ungrateful for the Intelligence.

Indeed there was something pleasant enough in this State-Farce, the Person whom I had employ'd delighted himself with having made A——r his Tool, and engrossed the whole Advantage of this Discovery to himself: I was a little diverted to think how I had imposed on him, and the M——r no doubt laughed in his Sleeve not only at me but at the whole Nation.

This Letter with another, which it seems one of the Distillers had carried to Justice D——l, was laid before the Q——n and C——l, on which Lord Sb——n was sent for in great haste, and Orders were given for placing the Guards.

Accor-

Accordingly, as every one will remember, Guards were posted in several Quarters of the Town; particularly they were drawn up in *Covent-Garden*, where they remain'd under Arms the whole Night; and likewise in *Westminster*, where they did Duty in *St. Margaret's Church-yard* for three whole Nights and Days successively: A Detachment was sent into the City, and Centinels were posted at the Doors of the late Sir *Joseph Jekyll* and Sir *Robert Walpole*; and all this to prevent, as was pretended, any Disturbance from the Populace upon the Score of the *Gin Act*, which took place at *Michaelmas*. A Report was industriously spread, that not only the whole Body of the Distillers, but likewise several others, whose Trades and Vocations were affected by the said Act, had enter'd into a Combination to raise a Tumult under the whimsical Pretence of going in a mock Procession to bury *Gin*, in *Solomon's-Porch* before the West-Gate of the *Abbey*. A great Alarm run thro' the whole Town on this ridiculous Story, of which those Letters were the sole Foundation.

This I should not have been quite so soon informed of, happening to live in a
very

very retir'd Place, if the Person whom I had employ'd as my Agent had not come to me in a great Hurry, and told me that every body was in a Consternation; that Soldiers were parading in all the great Streets; that nothing was talk'd of but a most terrible Plot; and that the good Women were afraid their Husbands should stir out of their Houses for fear of Mischief. ——— You have a rare Head-piece, said he to me, to have invented all this; and let me tell you, I think, I have done my Part as well. ——— You see they all believe it ——— the Government is as sure there was a Rising intended, as we are that there was not ——— Why, if this Plot had been real now, I should have deserved a Statue for the Discovery ——— the M——r can't do less in justice than give me a handsome Post ——— none of your little paltry Employments where a Man is turn'd out at pleasure ——— No, no, I'll accept of nothing that is not a sure Dependance for Life, cry'd he, and I shall not scruple to tell him so, as soon as Things are a little quiet. I gave into this Humour of his, till by much talking of it, he became as certain such a thing would happen, as if he had already actually receiv'd a Grant.

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Having a little Curiosity to see how far his Description agreed with Truth, I took a Walk with him in the Evening, and found indeed that he had exaggerated nothing. I must own, that when I saw the Guards posted in the Manner abovemention'd, the Parish-Officers all on Duty, both Civil and Military Power opposed against a Shadow, and the poor People every where standing at their Doors, and looking with Amazement on each other, as wondering what could occasion such extraordinary Preparations, I felt a little Shock within myself for having lent a Hand toward propagating so groundless an Alarm, the Consequences of which it was impossible to answer for, and might have been such as I now tremble to think on.

I then began to see, or imagin'd that I saw, into the Views of the M——r, and could not help thinking that this pretended Plot was to serve as a Plea for keeping up a Standing-Army, for enforcing the Riot-Act, for enhancing the Article of Secret-Service, for making the Body of Distillers odious, and thro' their Sides the whole Body of the People. Those who have represented the M——r as being no Conjurer will after this retract
their

their Opinion, and acknowledge that like a true Conjuror he rais'd Devils and was paid for laying them.

On my next waiting on him he seem'd in an extream good Humour, was pleas'd to tell me he was highly satisfi'd with my Conduct in this Affair, as well as the Persons I had made Choice of to be my Instruments. He was even so free as to repeat to me a good-deal of what they said to him, and on my coming away made me a very considerable Present.

I heard afterwards that my Friend was in good earnest when he spoke of soliciting for a Place; but the M——r put him off with fair Words, which kept Expectation alive a-while; but he grew weary at last, and gave over haunting the Levee; though to this Hour he talks of having met with Ingratitude from the G——t for some signal Service he had done; but is silent as to what Nature that Service was of.

This is all I have to say on this Transaction, I now come to the third and last Affair I was ever employ'd in by the

M——r, and which I think may be distinguish'd by the Title of

The Patriot's Plot.

Being one Day alone with the M——r, he ask'd me if I was not acquainted with one L——? On my answering in the Affirmative, he again ask'd, what Opinion I had of him? To which I reply'd, that I took him for a Man of a good Share of Sense and Honesty. But he is a *Jacobite*, is he not, cry'd the M——r? I said, I knew nothing of that. Yes, yes, said he, I'm convinced of it. I hear he is privately supported by the Faction — meaning the Gentlemen in the Opposition; for by that Name he always distinguish'd them to me. I told him, I did not believe he was, for that I had often heard him inveigh against the great Avarice of that Party; and whatever he might have been, his Patriot Zeal seem'd now very much abated. Here I remember the M——r laughed heartily, and made some pleasant Reflections on the Prevalency of Self-interest over all Ranks and Dispositions. But growing more serious, the Man, said he, might be useful to me, if I could be assured of his Sincerity. I told him, I could answer for no body

body but myself, though I believed he might be trusted if he once engaged in any thing. On this he was silent for a Minute or two, and then said, he would not venture it; but that he would communicate the Business to me, and that I only shou'd be seen in it to him, and employ him as I had done the other Person in the Distillers Affair.

This Mark of his Trust in me was not so flattering as perhaps he imagined, being truly desirous of avoiding all such Employments as he had before found for me; but which way could I refuse with Safety? Necessity therefore obliged me to speak in a manner widely distant from my Heart, and also to keep my Looks as much as possible from giving the Lye to my Tongue: I knew very well that no Man saw more clearly into the Thoughts of those whom it was his Interest to read, and therefore it behoved me to be upon my Guard; but I had Prejudice for my Friend: He was firmly prepossess'd of my Attachment, and took not that Pains to observe me as I perfectly remember he did on giving me his first Orders, and received what Professions I made him with an Air which shewed he doubted not the Sincerity

city of them, and soon proceeded to give me those Instructions he thought necessary at that time.

The first thing you have to do, said he, is to see Mr. L——, and to introduce as naturally as you can some Discourse of me, and then by degrees inform him that you have something in your Head which will infallibly raise a good Sum of Money; but that you cannot carry it on alone, and if you find him ready to engage with you, you may let me know it.

This was going to work in the dark, but I undertook and ventur'd upon it. Accordingly I founded Mr. L——, who tho' he complained of some Patriots, was yet no Friend of the M——r, and in the course of our Conversation very much ridiculed his Measures. I join'd in his Opinion, and rail'd at every Step had been taken since his A——n, as I had Licence from himself to do, whenever I found it would be of service in the Affairs I was to carry on. Then I proceeded to say there would be no Crime in imposing on a Man who was so great an Enemy to his Country, and that if I had an able and trusty Friend I was sure that I had a way

way to squeeze out some part of the Money he, the M——r, had robb'd the Public of. Mr. L—— cried out presently, it would be but an act of Justice; and if I thought him qualified he would gladly join in any thing of that kind, tho' he were sure not to get a Shilling by it himself. Well, said I, you are the fittest Person in the World: I have not determined yet how it shall be managed; but since I find you are willing to come into it, I will consider of it, and let you know. He then gave me many Assurances that nothing should tempt him to betray the least Tittle of what I should impart to him, and exprest a great deal of Impatience to be told something of my Design. I answered, it was to no purpose to mention a part; but in a Day or two he should be acquainted with the whole.

I no sooner parted with him than I went directly to *Ch-l-a*, but the M——r was not at home. The next Morning I saw him in Town, and having repeated the Conversation I had with Mr. L——, he seem'd very well pleased, and when I told him of the Impatience he exprest, I believe, said he with a Smile, that if the Truth were known, your Curiosity

osity is little inferior to his ; but you shall both of you be gratified. As for myself, answered I, it is sufficient for me to know I am obeying your Honour's Commands, and presume not to enquire farther. than you are pleased to think necessary I should know for the Execution of them ; but between him and me it is quite different, and he might scruple to engage in a thing, the Nature and End of which was hid from him. All the End, said the M——r, that he must ever know, I think you have told him, is to impose upon me, and get Money. As for you, I shall conceal nothing of what I propose by it from you.

You must know, continued he, that I suspect a certain Foreign Lady has been tampered with, or if she has not already, that the Faction may have Thoughts of getting her into their Interest, which it is mine to prevent if possible : The Scheme I have laid will go a great way toward discovering how far she is, or may be gained. In order therefore to the carrying on this Business, you are to enter into an imaginary anonymous Correspondence as between the Faction and Mr. L——, requiring of him to deliver certain Letters to a Lady a little way out of Town, and
bring

bring her Answers which they will send to him for.

This was the Substance of what the M——rs delivered; and I then desired to know what was to be wrote to Madame ——? To which he replied, that the Letter to her must be as from some of the Heads of the Faction, tho' without any Name any more than those to Mr. L——: That the first must contain only some Insinuations that her Power and Interest was much less considerable than others of her Character had enjoyed in former Reigns, or than what she deserved and had Reason to expect: That she ought to impute this want of public Influence meerly to the little good-will of the M——r, through his Jealousy of her Power with the K——. Paint out my Injustice to her Merit in the strongest Colours you can, said he smiling, you have my leave to abuse me. Then continued he, you may add, that there are Gentlemen who are impatient to see her in a more exalted Station, as well as to rectify many other Mistakes of a more public Nature—— that Projects are already formed for that purpose, and that they will hereafter explain themselves more fully. As for the others

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to

to be sent her, the Reception of the first must determine. He told me also it must be wrote in *French*, and desired I would shew it him before I put it into Mr. L——'s Hands.

As I did not comprehend the Meaning of all this, I asked, in case the Lady sent any Answer, in what manner it was to be disposed of?——Why to be given to me, cry'd he: Is it not to Fathom her Intentions I do all this? If she writes, L—— must come and betray all this feign'd Correspondence to me.——How is it else that you pretend to impose upon me? Are not the Letters wrote to him designed only to give the thing the greater Air of Truth to me?——Are you so dull of Apprehension as not to perceive that his Business is to make me believe that the Faction have thought fit to employ him without wholly confiding in him; and that by bringing those Letters which he pretends to be sent to him, he is to suppose I am deceived by an Artifice of your contriving?

I begg'd his Pardon for having given him the Trouble of conducting me thro' this Labyrinth, which ought to have been
needless,

needless, had I reflected on the last Will and Testament Plot.

Being now fully acquainted with what I was to do, I took my leave, not a little astonish'd that a Person in his Station could descend to such low Practices, which seem'd to me more befitting the Chicanry of a Stock-jobber than the Policy of a Prime M——r.

Mr. L—— was transported when I related to him the whole of my Contrivance, as I call'd it, and protested that whatever Reward should be given for this pretended Treachery it would be less satisfactory to him than the pleasing Conscience of having over-reach'd a Man, who by his Artifices had over-reach'd a whole Nation.

After having made him perfectly comprehend how the whole Affair was to be conducted, we set down to prepare the Letters: Those to himself was easily dispatched, but those to the Lady required a good deal of Thought, so I said it should be my Evening's Employment, and appointed him to come the next Day, when I promised it should be ready.

I was obliged to put him off in this manner, because I was under a necessity of shewing it first to the M——r. As I had not been much accustomed to write in *French*, tho' I understand the Language tolerably well, it cost me some Pains; but I accomplished it at last, so as not to be disapproved by the M——r, to whom I carried it by seven o'Clock the next Morning, and he bid me send Mr. L—— with it that same Afternoon to K——n.

His Orders were punctually obeyed: Mr. L—— indeed had not the Honour of seeing Madame ——, but he delivered the Letter to her favourite Woman, who assur'd him it was the same thing, and that her Lady should have it before she slept.

The M——r was satisfied when I told him of it, and said, he knew that Woman was the Cabinet of her Secrets. I then asked when I was to write again, and in what manner? To which he answer'd, that he would wait some Days to see if she took any Notice of it to him, and if she did not, he would send for me to give me further Instructions.

Accord-

Accordingly I was sent for the fifth Day. Nothing, he said, had been mentioned by Madame—— of the Letter, tho' he had seen her twice since she received it, so was now convinced she designed to make a Secret of it to him, and he would have me send again immediately, and be as pressing as I could for an Answer.

The modelling this Letter took me up the best part of the Day, but he having desired I would come again and shew it him, as soon as finish'd, I went to C---l--a in the Evening: I was oblig'd to wait some time before I saw him, he being laid down to Sleep. Being told on his awaking that I was there, he sent for me into the second Parlour, where he read the Letter, made no Objection to any part of it, and order'd me to send Mr. L—— the next Day to K——n, and if he brought an Answer to let him come to him forthwith, and make the suppos'd Discovery; but if the Lady sent none, I was to tell him the Thing was not quite ripe, and we must think of something to heighten it. And so we must, added he, for if she does not write, my Purposes will not be fully answered.

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As soon as I got home, late as it was, I sent for Mr. L——, gave him the Letter, and told him that it was my Opinion, if we could be so fortunate as to get an Answer from her, the betraying such a Correspondence would be worth any Money from the M——r. He said he knew it would; we supped together and drank to the good Success of our Project.

He fail'd not to go to K——n the next Day, and delivered the Letter to the same Hand as before, who after carrying it to her Lady came to him again, sat some time with him, talk'd in the most free and obliging manner, and had a certain Satisfaction in her Countenance, which gave him room to believe the Errand he came upon was not displeasing to her Lady. While they were together, he heard a great rustling of Silks in the next Room; he saw no Body, but by the look of the Woman, fancy'd Madame —— might have Curiosity enough to see the Person who had brought the Letters, and had come to some Place where she could do so without being perceiv'd by him. The Gentlewoman was afterwards call'd in, but soon return'd, and with the same Affability and Chearfulness as before told him

him, her Lady would consider on the Letters, and desired he would come again in three or four Days. When Mr. L—— acquainted me with this I told him, that I thought we had Reason to be satisfied with this Message; for her Ladyship's taking Time to consider looked as if she intended to write, since if she had wholly rejected the Proposals she would have testified it at once.

After he had left me I went to the M——r, who seem'd a little thoughtful when I related to him what Mr. L—— had told me. 'Tis plain, said he, she is divided and uncertain which Party to take;—so far I am satisfied; but L——'s going again will shew us what she means. He added, that he would not have him exceed the Time her Woman appointed.

Mr. L—— accordingly went, and return'd with a Chearfulness in his Countenance which before he spoke assured me that his Embassy had been now successful. He presently pulled a Letter out of his Pocket, which had been deliver'd to him by the Lady's Confidante, and told me, that he had been treated by her with
greater

greater Complaisance, if possible, than before.

This Account, as well as the former one he had given me of his Reception, made me imagine Madame ——— was not in Reality averse to listening to Proposals of the Nature I had offer'd, and tho' Curiosity is no great Ingredient in my Composition, I felt some Emotions of it for the Contents of this Letter; but as they were not to be gratified, my Reason easily suppressed them. Mr. L—— said, he wish'd the Gentlemen in the Opposition had indeed entrusted him with a Business of this kind, and that it had been a real instead of a fictitious Correspondence. He added, that he wonder'd they did not in good earnest attempt engaging Madame ——— in their Interest; which he imagin'd would not have been an improbable Scheme. I was entirely of his Mind, and had Cause to be so when I reflected on the Doubts the M——r himself had express'd to me on that Head, but that I was oblig'd to keep to myself. We had some farther Conversation how far such Overtures from the Patriots might be practicable, as well as of the publick Utility they might have been; but as it relates
only

nly to our private Opinions, and is of no consequence to the Matter in hand, I shall forbear an impertinent Detail of it, but make what Haste I can to the Catastrophe of this Affair.

We agreed on the Conclusion that it was necessary for Mr. L—— to write to the M——r, to acquaint him that something of a very extraordinary Nature having fallen in his Way, he thought proper to disclose it to him, and to that End would wait on him the next Day, if he was pleased to give Orders for his Admittance.

This he sent by a Porter, and went himself at the Time he had mention'd in it; taking with him the K——n Letter, and all those we had directed to himself, as his Vouchers in what Manner he came to be engaged in this Correspondence. All which the M——r took, and kept for the Use he had to make of them.

Notwithstanding the Impatience, which it appears by all I have recited, the M——r had to discover how far Madame —— was to be wrought upon to his Prejudice,

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he had the Policy to treat Mr. L——, and the Intelligence he brought him, with a Shew of the utmost Indifference; and when he had broke open, and read that Lady's Letter, only said coldly, This is a Thing of no Consequence: I am not now to be inform'd that the Faction are always restless, and aiming at Things out of their Reach. On this Mr. L—— was so much piqued, that he answer'd with a great deal of Spirit, That doubtless what they aim'd at was *now* out of their Reach; but how far it might have been so, said he, if I had not betray'd them, no body can answer. — I have nevertheless done what I thought my Duty, and should be sorry to think your Honour lessen'd the Importance of the Thing, only to lessen the Merit of the Service. No, replied the M——r, I am obliged to you, however, and as you were to have some Recompence I suppose, if you had kept the Letter till they had sent, you shall not be a Loser by having brought it to me; and I expect you will never be concerned in any thing against the Government. With these Words Mr. L—— said he put a Bank Bill into his Hand; for which having made his Compliments, he soon after took his Leave, and came to me

me not well satisfied with the M——r's Behaviour.

The Present he had made him was not indeed equivalent to the Service he had done him, had the Transaction he discover'd been a real one, and as he must seem to think it so he was obliged to have Recourse to that refin'd Dissimulation of affecting to contemn the enervate Attempt of his Enemies, in order to avoid gratifying Mr. L----- as he might have expected, had he appear'd to think the Discovery of any Moment.

Mr. L----- could not keep himself from saying some bitter Things, which I was obliged to join in. Neither could I avoid giving into, and forwarding a Project which he now form'd in his Turn of getting a second Favour from the M——r. It was this: Another Letter to be wrote to himself, as from the same Quarter with the former ones; intimating, that they had caused him to be watched, and that he had been seen to go into the M——r's House; that they had all the Reason in the World to believe he had betray'd them, and that they would be revenged. Some Days after

the Date of this pretended Menace, he gave himself a slight Wound on the Head, and went again to the M——r, shewing both the Letter and the Wound; the latter of which he said he had received in an Encounter with Persons unknown: On this the M——r gave him another Bill of the same Value with the former.

But I must here beg Leave to take Notice, that before he put this Stratagem in Execution, I went to the M——r and previously acquainted him with the Design Mr. L—— had upon his Generosity. At which he laughed excessively and cried, I find he has some Invention.—— Well ---- well ----- let him come ----- the poor Man shall not hurt himself for nothing.

I had now an Opportunity of saying, I hoped the K----- Letter had answered the Purpose his Honour expected from it, and he not only frankly told me, that it had, but also unbosom'd himself at this Time more than I had ever known him do before.

I cannot say indeed he entered into any Particulars, or told me in plain Terms, the

the Use he had made of this pretended Discovery ; but by many Expressions he let fall, it was easy for me to gather, that to fathom Madame ———'s Sentiments was not the only View he had in it, tho' as it certainly gave him an Opportunity of establishing himself with that Lady, and in a manner rendering it her Interest to be on his Side, it was no immaterial Point all Things consider'd. ——— He talk'd of the Blow was now given to the Opposition ——— of the K----'s Rage ; that his M——— would never forgive the Arrogance of interfering with his private Concerns ; and all this with an Air of Triumph and Self-sufficiency, as if he knew himself too securely rivetted in the R——l Favour for any Insinuations whatever to remove him.

When I came home and had leisure to reflect on what the M———r, in the exultings of his Heart had uttered, it seem'd plain to me that this fictitious Correspondence had been laid before the K——, and that it was on this account his M—— imagined he had so just a Reason for Resentment.— Good God ! thought I then, if it has been so, what a Precipice have I escaped ?— Might not his M——, thinking himself affronted in so tender a Point,

Point, have insisted on an Examination into this Matter, and in order to it, have order'd the Person who brought those Letters to be seiz'd; and then what must have been the Event? I neither believ'd, or wish'd Mr. L—— if put to his Oath, would have maintain'd the Fallacy, and on the Questions which would naturally have been ask'd him, could not without Perjury have avoided naming me as the Author and Contriver of those Letters—— What then must have become of me? I should have had no way of attesting my Innocence but by accusing the M——r; which Accusation, as I had no Proofs, would but perhaps have aggravated my seeming Guilt, and consequently render'd my Sentence more severe; if on the contrary I had been silent, and submitted to take the whole upon myself, tho' I doubt not but I might have depended on the Favour of the M——r for rendering my Punishment as gentle, and my Misfortune as supportable as possible; could any thing in his, or the united Power of all Mankind atone for what I must have suffer'd in my Character? These Considerations were of such weight with me that I made a final Resolution that on no Temptations or Perswasions whatever I would again run into such Hazards.

I have

I have now, Gentlemen, gone thro' the whole of the pernicious Practices I proposed to lay before you ; and how trifling soever the means may appear, I cannot help being of Opinion, that they served to bring about very important Ends. I can truly say, that in committing these Things to Paper I have blushed and hated myself by turns ; and I take Heaven to Witness, I have not to the best of my Belief deviated a single tittle from the Truth. As I appear to you, Gentlemen, in the light of an Accuser, and not as a Declaimer, I have rather chose to keep as close as possible to Matters of Fact than pretend to display in Oratorical Colours either the enormous Guilt of these Contrivances, or what is due to the Author of them. That is a Task I must leave to the Eloquence of others, and shall not further trespass on your Moments than just for Method's sake to give a summary Recapitulation of the Views of the whole, which appear to me to have been calculated for these dangerous Ends, *viz.*

For weakning the Constitution by wicked Inventions to shew the necessity of keeping up a standing Force : For rivetting himself in the R—— Confidence, or rather for awing his M—— into favour
by

by the most daring Insinuations, which is a new Species of T——n: For creating a Jealousy in the K—— of his People: For rendering his best Subjects obnoxious to him: For magnifying his own Zeal; and finally for multiplying the Articles of *Secret Service*.

After this, Gentlemen, I cannot conclude better than by repeating to you my great Readiness, as well as assuring you of my ardent Wishes to be enabled to appear in *Person* before you, that I may support those Things, *viva voce*, which at present I can only do by anonymous Accusation.

I have now nothing more to add, than that may the Wisdom of him who giveth Light to the Dark, prosper your Enquiries; and may a Love of Justice influence the Minds of all who have it in their Power to make such Discoveries as may give that Satisfaction, which a long oppressed, misrepresented, and abused People have all Reason to hope and expect, which is the humble and sincere Wish of,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most obedient Servant.

F I N I S.

